

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Request for Continued Examination:

The applicant respectfully requests continued examination of the above-indicated application as per 37 CFR 1.114.

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1. Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to specify that the electrical channel tested by the optical drive controller does not include an electrical path between the laser diode driver and the laser diode. As shown in Fig.5 of applicant's disclosure, the WSR channel tested
10 by the optical disk drive controller does not include an electrical path between the laser diode driver and the following laser diode. Therefore, the amendments made to claims 1 and 8 are fully supported by Fig.5 and pertinent description in the specification of applicant's disclosure. No new matter is introduced.

15 2. Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gushima et al. (US 2001/0038586) in view of Kodama (US 5606468).

Response:

Claim 1

20 Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the electrical channel tested by the optical drive controller does not include an electrical path between the laser diode driver and the laser diode, which implies that the laser diode driver is not involved in testing timing characteristics of the electrical channel between the optical drive controller and the laser diode driver. The applicant therefore asserts that the claimed

limitation “the optical drive controller testing timing characteristics of an electrical channel between the optical drive controller and the laser diode driver” is neither taught nor suggested by the combined teaching of Gushima and Kodama.

With respect to Gushima’s teachings, Gushima discloses that the propagation delay
5 time of the propagation path, including the laser driver (104), **the laser diode (102)**, the photodetector (107) and the signal processor (108), and the setting time of the sampler (109) are measured by a device shown in Gushima Fig.4 (paragraph [0064]); in addition, the measurement unit of response time (601) shown in Gushima Fig.4 is implemented to measure the sum of the propagation delay time and the setting time (paragraphs [0083]
10 and [0084]). The applicant would like to point out that **Gushima’s laser diode (102)** electrically connected between the test pulse generator 602 and the measurement unit of response time (601) **must be involved** in the response characteristic measurement according to teachings of Gushima. As a result, a photodetector (107) implemented to convert detected light intensity emitted from the laser diode (102) into an output current
15 (paragraph [0042]) and a signal processor 108 implemented to perform current-to-voltage conversion, gain conversion and filtering upon the output current to generate a monitor voltage (paragraph [0043]) are necessitated by the response characteristic measurement due to the laser diode (102). Therefore, the overall signal path from the laser driver (104) toward the sampler (109) is tested to measure the response characteristic thereof. In other
20 words, Gushima teaches testing a feedback path between a laser diode driver and an optical drive controller having the measurement unit of response time (601) and test pulse generator (602) integrated therein as taught by Kodama’s teachings, where **the electrical path between the laser driver (104) and the laser diode (102) must be included in the**

tested path to realize the desired response characteristic measurement.

However, applicant's claim 1 defines that the optical drive controller tests timing characteristics of an electrical channel between the optical drive controller and the laser diode driver, where the electrical channel under test **does not include** an electrical path between the laser diode driver and the laser diode. In other words, as clearly shown in Fig.5 of applicant's disclosure, the electrical path between the laser diode driver (32) and the laser diode (34) is excluded from the claimed electrical channel (such as WSR channels 38) tested by the optical drive controller 30. This claimed feature is different from Gushima's timing characteristic measurement applied to the feedback path mentioned above, and is therefore neither taught nor suggested by Gushima in view of Kodama.

In view of at least above reasons, the applicant asserts that claim 1 should be found allowable over the combined teaching of Gushima and Kodama. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7

Claims 2-7 are dependent upon claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is found allowable.

Claim 8

Similarly, claim 8 has been amended to specify that the electrical channel tested by the optical drive controller does not include an electrical path between the laser diode

driver and the laser diode. In light of above arguments of claim 1, the applicant therefore asserts that the claimed limitation “the optical drive controller testing timing characteristics of the electrical channel by outputting timing test signals over the electrical channel” as recited in claim 8 is neither taught nor suggested by the combined teaching of Gushima and Kodama. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

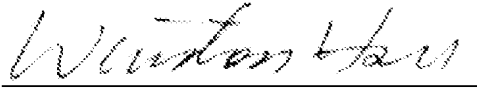
Claims 9-13

Claims 9-13 are dependent upon claim 8, and should be allowed if claim 8 is found allowable.

Conclusion

Based on the above remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that all of the rejections set forth in the Office action dated 06/27/2008 have been overcome and all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned applicant's representative at the number indicated below.

Sincerely yours,



Date: 09.25.2008

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10 Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C. is 12 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 9 PM in Taiwan.)